Fourth Sunday of Easter



Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church Child Development Center and Pre-School Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley, D.R.S., Ph.D., Pastor May 11, 2025



John 10:22-23 THE SETTING AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE

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WELCOME WE'RE GLAD YOU JOINED US



Altar flowers placed in celebration of Mother's Day and of family birthdays and anniversary in May by the Richter family.

BRUNCH Today

Time to take Mom out for lunch!



INTRODUCTION

The gift of new life, of eternal life, is the gift of the risen Christ. It is the promise of Jesus. It was true for Dorcas in Joppa. It was true for those "who have come out of the great ordeal" in the Revelation vision. It is true for us and for all the baptized: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

In the name of + the One who was, who is, and who is to come. Amen.

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism. Holy God,

we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own,

- that restore to wholeness,
- and empower us to be witnesses in your name.
- Baptized into you, O Living One,
- make us one as you are one.

- We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church;
- waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.** Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

Amen.

Gathering Song

"Holy God, We Praise Your Name"

¹Holy God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we bow before you. All on earth your scepter claim,

all in heav'n above adore you. Infinite your vast domain, everlasting is your reign.

² Hark! the glad celestial hymn angel choirs above are raising; cherubim and seraphim,

in unceasing chorus praising, fill the heav'ns with sweet accord: "Holy, holy, holy Lord!"

³ Lo, the apostolic train join your sacred name to hallow; prophets swell the glad refrain,

and the white-robed martyrs follow; and from morn to set of sun through the church the song goes on.

Final Holy Father, holy Son, Holy Spirit, three we name you, though in essence only one;

undivided God we claim you and, adoring, bend the knee while we own the mystery.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.



Kyrie eleison Lord, have mercy. Christe eleison Christ, have mercy. Kyrie eleison Lord, have mercy.

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Glory To God

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest, glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. [Refrain]

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[Refrain]

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest, glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.

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Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. [Refrain] Pg. 213

[Refrain]

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest, glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.

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For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen. [Refrain]

[Refrain]

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest, glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth, and peace to God's people on earth. Pg. 213

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant,

make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is wellpleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 9:36-43

Dorcas was a faithful and devoted woman of charity in the community of Joppa. Her kindness and her work with clothing were well-known, especially to the widows in town. When she fell ill and died, Peter raised her back to life through the power of prayer. ³⁶Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. ³⁷At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. ³⁸Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay."

³⁹So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up.

⁴¹He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. ⁴²This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: PSALM 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)

¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.
²The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

³ You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴ Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

SECOND READING: Revelation 7:9-17

Christ is the shepherd who leads his faithful to springs of the water of life. Christ is also the lamb who vanquishes sin and suffering. ⁹After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." ¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" ¹⁴I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; ¹⁷for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Alleluia. You have the words of eternal Life. Alleluia, alleluia.

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GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to John 10:22-30

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 10:22-30

Jesus responds to questions about his identity with the remarkable claim that he and the Father are one. Those who understand this are his sheep; they hear his voice, follow, and will never be snatched from his hand. ²²At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³ and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." ²⁵Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me;

²⁶but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. ³⁰The Father and I are one."

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.



Sermon

Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley

The Great Multitude of Revelation Chapter 7

Zeteo316.com

Hymn of the Day

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

¹The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never; I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever.

² Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth and, where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.

³ Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me, and on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.

⁴ In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear Lord, beside me, thy rod and staff my comfort still; thy cross before to guide me.

⁵Thou spreadst a table in my sight; thine unction grace bestoweth; and, oh, what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!

Final And so, through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never.

Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

With the whole church let us confess our faith.

CREED

Apostles' Creed I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and

the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

You guide your people to the waters of life. Make your church a nourishing place for all who are thirsty for hope and healing. Renew us in the waters of baptism, and send us forth as signs of your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** You tend to the earth, sustaining life in all places. Revive fragile ecosystems and restore species in danger of extinction. Teach us new ways of living in balance and harmony with our non-human neighbors.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You lead all peoples along right pathways. Grant wisdom and compassion to judges, lawyers, mediators, and legal advocates. Dismantle systems of mass incarceration, empower processes of restorative justice, and encourage all who strive for healing in our communities. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

You wipe the tears from every eye. Tend to all who struggle with anxiety or depression, loneliness, or despair. Enfold all who are in any need in your shepherding care and we remember our friends and family members before you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

This Mother's Day, bless mothers, grandmothers, and all who offer mothering care. Come close to those whose relationships with their families are difficult, and console all who grieve the loss of mother figures or the loss of children.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all our military, especially those deployed. We keep in our prayers all the Wounded Warriors that have returned home to heal. We pray for our missionaries: for Cheryl Kruckemeyer our missionary in Tanzania, for Kathleen in Kenya serving with the World Mission Prayer League, and for our sister congregation at Faith Lutheran Church in Cincinnati, Ohio. Gracious God, you call your people to pass on the faith to future generations. Help us and all congregations to raise up ministry leaders for the next generation of your

church. We pray for this work in LCMC Texas as we lift up the faculty and students of Harvest Workers, our online ministry training program. Today we also give you thanks for Holy Ghost Lutheran Church in Fredericksburg, Texas and their pastors, David Priem, Clint Pluenneke, and Steve Qualben. Bless their ministry both now and for generations to come. Bless and protect all our local nurses, doctors, healthcare workers and first responders, our students, teachers and school administrators. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

You are the source of everlasting life. In deep gratitude for all your saints, we rejoice in the joy and hope of the resurrection made known to us in Jesus, your beloved child. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you. Amen.

Canticle of Thanksgiving

Refrain Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for ever and ever.

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¹ Great and wonderful are your deeds, O God of the universe; just and true are your ways, O Ruler of all the nations. Who can fail to honor you, Lord, and sing the glory of your name?

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Refrain Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.



² For you alone are the Holy One, and blessed is the one whose name is the Word of God. All praise and thanks to you, holy God!

Pg. 219

Refrain Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.



THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. Amen.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

Amen.

Sending Song

"God Be with You Till We Meet Again"

¹ God be with you till we meet again; by good counsels guide, uphold you,

with a shepherd's care enfold you; God be with you till we meet again.

[Refrain]

Till we meet, till we meet till we meet at Jesus' feet; till we meet, till we meet God be with you till we meet again.

² God be with you till we meet again; holy wings securely hide you,

daily manna still provide you; God be with you till we meet again.

[Refrain]

Till we meet, till we meet till we meet at Jesus' feet; till we meet, till we meet God be with you till we meet again.

Final God be with you till we meet again; when life's perils thick confound you,

put unfailing arms around you; God be with you till we meet again.

[Refrain]

Till we meet, till we meet till we meet at Jesus' feet; till we meet, till we meet God be with you till we meet again.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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